

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-15, 18, 20-24 and 26-35 are pending. Claims 1, 13 and 28 are independent.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for an antecedent basis problem. Claim 11 has been amended to now depend from claim 10 in order to eliminate the antecedent basis problem. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 8, 10-13 and 22-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, the limitations of allowable claim 13 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, the limitations of allowable claim 25 have been incorporated into independent claim 18, and independent claim 28 has been amended to include limitations similar to those found in allowable claim 13. As such, all the independent claims have been placed in allowable form, and the claims dependent thereon should be allowable at least for these reasons.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's art grounds of rejection has been rendered moot, and that the Examiner withdraw the art grounds of rejection and allow the subject application.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at number listed below.

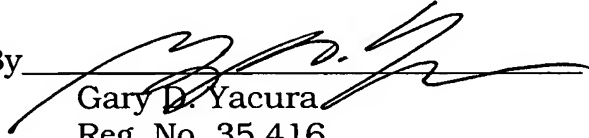
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By


Gary D. Yacura
Reg. No. 35,416

GDY:jcp

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000